

17 DEC 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

DD/A Registry

FROM : John F. Blake  
Deputy Director for AdministrationFile *Blake*SUBJECT : Record Group 226 Documents Requiring Protection  
Beyond 30 Years

Sir:

1. Submitted herewith are lists, bound in five volumes, containing descriptions of those documents in Record Group 226 (OSS records, principally of the Research and Analysis Branch) on which we propose continued classification. Record Group 226 is in the custody of the Military Archives Division of the National Archives and is comprised of approximately 1,000 cubic feet of material.

2. The declassification review of Record Group 226 documents was done by a team of annuitants under contract with DDO/ISS/ISG. The team worked at the Archives Building from December 1972 to August 1974, three days a week, operating under guidelines approved by Mr. Colby. Some of the documents which were missing from the boxes at the time of the initial review, but turned up later, were reviewed under the same guidelines by officers of the Information and Privacy Staff.

3. Our reviewers identified only 4.7 percent of the Record Group 226 documents as requiring classification. Some of them must remain classified because they contain information received in confidence from foreign governments. Others concern sensitive political or foreign policy matters which, if disclosed, could cause foreign relations problems. In most instances, however, the documents must remain classified to protect intelligence sources and methods--e.g., the identities of agents and other confidential sources, non-official cover organizations, collaborating international organizations and private business concerns, combined organizations, etc. The majority of the documents cited on the attached lists, although remaining classified, can be released if certain passages, such as the description of a source or the name of an organization, are first deleted.

Worksheets filed in the archives boxes at the National Archives contain detailed instructions for sanitization. In short, we propose to declassify over 95 percent of the documents of Record Group 226 in their entirety and, of the remaining 4.7 percent, authorize Archives personnel to release most of the documents to researchers provided that the sensitive material is excised.

4. All documents cited on these lists have been arbitrarily downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL, this being the lowest level of classification.

5. You will note that we have not filled in column 6 on the forms. Lacking official guidelines, we have opted for a second declassification review 75 years after date of origin. We have been assured by Archives officials that this is acceptable and that a statement to this effect in the transmittal letter from the Director will serve in lieu of actually filling in column 6.

6. After the letter is signed, please return it and the attached material for collation and distribution.

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake

Attachments: Letter to Dr. Rhoads  
SF No. 325, 5 volumes

STATINTL IPS/ [REDACTED] ps/16 December 1976

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Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP79-00498A000600060024-3

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Executive Registry

76-5861

22 DEC 1976

Dr. James B. Rhoads  
Archivist of the United States  
National Archives and Records Service  
Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

In accordance with Section 5(E)(2) of Executive Order 11652 and Section II, D of the National Security Council Directive of May 17, 1972, I have determined that the documents listed on the enclosed forms (SF No. 325) require continued security protection for the reasons indicated. I hereby request that they be separated from the other records of Record Group 226 and kept protected until December 31, 2020, at which time they should be reviewed a second time to determine whether continued classification is still warranted.

The arrangement of the enclosed lists corresponds to that utilized in the "Preliminary Inventory of the Textual Records of the Office of Strategic Services" (NM-54). Reviewer worksheets held by the National Archives contain instructions for sanitizing those documents which may be released in segregable form.

Sincerely,  
72 George Bush  
George Bush  
Director

Enclosures: Five volumes, SF 325

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